

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
16 DIVINITY AVENUE  
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

October 13, 1955

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

I have been able to escape, during my first two years here, the consequences of one of the local ground rules; namely, that each staff member shall present one course each term. Some leniency was apparently allowed in this case because Biology 1 imposed a rather heavy load on me as a beginner. This has now been caught up, however, to the extent that there are some pretty definite commitments for second terms in future years. These will take the form of alternating courses in some experimental aspect of mycology one year and a course in collaboration with Paul Levine the alternate year. In the latter, it is our objective to give students a rather intense acquaintanceship in the laboratory with some of the microorganisms more commonly used in genetic research. The listing for the course in the catalogue is "Sexuality and Genetics in Microorganisms" and appears for the coming term for the first time. This is being initiated at a rather bad time since Paul will be on leave during the second term so the first run through will probably accentuate the sexuality part of the business rather heavily.

In casting about for the best materials for such a course, E. coli and genetic recombination is an obvious must. You were kind enough to provide material for a comparable study in a course at Chicago where the exercise worked like a charm and excited considerable interest among the students. We would appreciate it very greatly if you could provide us with material for this purpose, if they are available. Strains comparable to those used for the recently published work of Wollman and Jacobs would be particularly appropriate to the sort of exercise that we would like to have the students perform. Or, if you feel that this is too complicated for a group of rather select graduate students to do in the laboratory, a simpler combination would, of course, suffice.

There is no particular hurry about all this. I would, however, like to have the cultures in time to make a pre-course run through the exercise prior to the beginning of February.

Professor Joshua Lederberg

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Should you stumble across my brother, Kenneth, tell him that I am filled with good intentions and that he will hear from me in the near future.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Red", written over the printed name "John R. Raper".

John R. Raper

JRR/jcf